UNITED NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.86/L.3
16 November 1992

ENGLISH ONLY

FIFTH UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL
CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE FOR
THE AMERICAS
New York, 11-15 January 1993
Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL MAPPING AND CHARTING PROGRAMMES

MANAGERIAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and its four-year work plan for the period 1992-1995

Paper submitted by International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)**

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* E/CONF.86/1.

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The location of the administration of FIG moves every four years to the country in which its next Congress is to be held. The majority of the members of its administrative Bureau come from that country and the Bureau will be resident in Australia for the quadrennium 1992-1995.

These four year changes provide convenient time periods at which to review the objectives and strategies of the Federation. Each Bureau has, in recent years,prepared a Work Plan which sets out these future directions for the period ahead.

The Australian Bureau has produced its Work Plan and a major emphasis is on assisting developing countries in their efforts towards land and marine management, development and conservation, in the search for a future built upon policies and practices sustainable in the long term.

The paper outlines the approaches and mechanisms to be followed by FIG in the period ahead.

The Surveyor and Global Change

FIG has accepted the theme of "The Surveyor and Global Change" for the four year term of the Australian Bureau. That our fragile and constantly evolving planet is undergoing profound change is axiomatic. Some of these changes are caused by the agency of mankind while others are from so called "natural causes" and links between the two can be complex and sometimes not easily discerned.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992 produced some startling statistics which highlight the diversity and rapidity of those changes.

- the world's population, now 5.3 billion is likely to double in the next 40 years.
- 10% of the world's potentially fertile land has been turned to waste by human interference.
- over 20 million hectares of tropical forests are being cut down each year.
- about 1.3 billion people have access only to polluted water, 2.3 billion lack sanitation facilities and 1.5 billion lack sufficient fuel for cooking and heating.
- less than 25% of the world's population lives in industrialised countries yet they consume 75% of the world's energy, 72% of steel production and 85% of all wood products. (1)

The simple statement of these facts speaks eloquently of the problems which the whole world faces.

The Surveyor's Work

The recently approved FIG definition of a surveyor states that a surveyor possesses qualifications and expertise to practise the science of measurement, to assemble and assess land information, to use it for planning and implementing the efficient administration of the land, the sea and structures on and in them and to instigate the advancement and development of these practices.(2)

As a consequence of accepting and applying that definition,
FIG believes that the work of surveyors in all fields and applications is central to countries being able to manage their land and marine resources in ways which enhance the life of all people and so assist in coping with global change to the greatest extent possible.
Whilst technology itself will provide important tools, FIG believes that the development of people is of at least equal importance. Thus much of the Work Plan is directed towards activities which will provide surveyors across the world with development opportunities, events which will assist in the increase of

knowledge and understanding and enable those participating to cope better with the complexities of their immediate environment.

Primary Objectives.

Core elements of the Work Plan which deal with these "people oriented" issues include:

- the strengthening of ties within the international community,
- consolidating regional co-operation between members of the profession especially, but not by any means exclusively, in the Asia/Pacific Region,
- facilitating the work of FIG's nine Technical and Scientific Commissions in less developed countries,
- convening the 1994 FIG Congress in Melbourne, Australia on the theme "Surveying Global Changes",
- implementing the land management and environmental policies of FIG and its Commissions, emphasising the importance of sustainable development and its relationship to equitable urban and regional development,
- fostering liaison and closer ties with relevant United Nations organisations and agencies.
- investigating how FIG's policies on the exchange of surveying personnel can best be implemented.
- producing a series of succinct publications aimed at providing surveyors with advice and information which will be of benefit to them.

How to do it ?

Sir Kenneth Clarke observed that "fine words butter no parsnips!"(3) It is not sufficient to merely set out objectives in high sounding words but it is essential to follow them through with actions which meet the objectives. The Bureau has thought through the actions it needs to initiate and these include the following:

- each of the nine FIG Commissions has been requested to hold a workshop or symposium in a developing country during the quadrennium. At this early stage it is encouraging to have opportunities emerging in the African, South American and Asian continents.
- the emerging countries of Asia and the Pacific have expressed the need to provide development opportunities for their surveyors. Actions have already commenced to identify how, through membership in FIG, surveyors in these countries can be exposed to international thought and discussion and bring benefits to their own countries.Encouragement is also being given to facilitating exchange programs, allowing surveyors from these countries to gain experience elsewhere.
- a need in many parts of the developing world and in those countries in eastern and central Europe now experiencing greater political freedom and diversity, is for secure, registered and inviolate land tenure for their people and especially but not exclusively for those involved in agriculture and food production. Experience has clearly shown how, in many parts of the world,

the lack of security of tenure of agricultural land has adversely affected that country's ability to provide a sustainable and acceptable standard of living for its people. Surveyors have a key role in putting in place and maintaining the records of land information which support an efficient and modern system of tenured land. FIG has requested its relevant Commission to produce a succinct "Statement on the Cadastre". The publication will be non-technical and primarily designed to assist governments, policy makers and land administrators understand better how a sound, efficient and relevant cadastral system can provide benefits to countries seeking to improve the ability of its citizens to be involved in development and improved productivity.

Essential Partnerships

FIG recognises that it does not and should not work in isolation in addressing these vital issues which affect so many individuals and countries. Nor does it have the resources to be able to do so. Consequently FIG is seeking to work in partnership or co-operation with kindred professional associations where, for example, a multi-disciplinary approach would enhance the dissemination of valuable knowledge.
Similarly, FIG does not have the financial resources within itself to be able to ensure that the proposed workshops and symposia in developing countries reach the maximum number of participants. By working in close co-operation and consultation with the United Nations and its agencies, FIG hopes to receive that measure of support which will maximise the benefit of development opportunities for surveyors from those countries where the need is greatest.
The essential elements necessary for holding a successful workshop in a developing country can include:

- identifying a host country and an association within it able to host the activity,
- identifying a sponsor country or countries ready to provide organisational support, expertise and backing,and
- having financial support available to enable people from the country and surrounding countries of the Region to attend and benefit from the interaction.

FIG recognises that there are other approaches possible for the holding of these meetings and will be pursuing all avenues open to it.

Conclusion

The Australian FIG Bureau has been told that it is responsible for the administration of FIG affairs at one of the most important periods of change in modern history. The realities and consequences of those change processes provide both opportunities and challenges for FIG and for surveyors world-wide. It has developed a Work Plan for the next four years which focusses heavily on the needs of developing countries, the places where conditions are most affected, either positively or negatively, by incremental change and where

surveyors can make an important contribution to the welfare of the citizens of those countries.
To achieve its objectives will require the development of partnerships with others and support from those sympathetic to the creation of
health and fulfillment for all people.

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(2). FIG Publication, (1991), Definition of a Surveyor.

(3). Clarke, Kenneth (1969), Civilisation, A Personal View. British Broadcasting Corporation and John Murray

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